

Life & Art

A Christmas Symphony

By Charles Wilkinson

On the afternoon of Dec. 5, Evanston Township High School resounded with the sound and spirit of Christmas. Under the warm and energetic direction of Lawrence Eckerling, the Evanston Symphony Orchestra covered everything from Hanukah to Halleluiah. In between, the Evanston Dance Ensemble, the Children's Chorus from the Music Institute of Chicago and Mary Ann Ahern stirred holiday feelings that will last well into 2005.

Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" carried the audience on a journey through "Nutcracker" highlights, Robert Applebaum's "Five Sided S'vivo," Ms. Ahern's "Night Before Christmas" and the holidays' many moods toward a warm, wrap-up sing-along with Santa himself.

Generously sponsored by Romano Brothers & Co., the concert left hearts humming in all who attended. The reception afterwards, decked with boughs of caroling and goodies, extended the warmth of the afternoon. The concert left all in awe of resident talents and the cultural richness of our town.